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Look for the Census in your mailbox in early January 2008. Complete and return it by February 4, 2008. Remember, when you lend your voice, you help ensure a better future for your operation, your family and your community.

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service


2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE
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WEATHER & CROPS



Week of: Nov. 5 – Nov. 11, 2007

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 11, 2007

Colder temperatures have begun to set in across the Commonwealth as producers try to harvest the last of the soybeans and cotton, while finishing small grain planting. Days suitable for work were 5.8. Topsoil moisture was generally adequate. Pastures and hayfields attempted to revive themselves since the increase in soil moisture but killing frosts have disallowed it. Livestock were able to take advantage of the regrowth in pastures, which reduced the need for supplemental feeding for now. The soybean harvest is nearing end with yields varying. Producers have reported that yields have been better than initially thought, considering conditions. The cotton harvest is also mostly done. Small grain planting is moving along at a rapid pace with the recent increase in soil moisture. Other activities this week include soil sampling, liming, seed and fertilizer purchases, and making planting decisions for 2008.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
November 11, 2007	12	35	52	1
November 4, 2007	15	32	52	1
October 28, 2007	1	25	71	3
October 21, 2007	56	38	6	0
October 14, 2007	55	39	6	0



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	25	37	28	9	1
Livestock	3	13	39	40	5
Other Hay	32	21	42	5	0
Alfalfa Hay	10	24	45	20	1
Winter Wheat	0	2	36	59	3
Barley	0	3	39	52	6

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.	
Soybeans Harvested	78	55	53	55	
Winter Wheat Seeded	82	52	63	65	
Winter Wheat Emerged	37	26	38	17	
Barley Seeded	98	93	93	95	
Peanuts Combined	100	95	93	94	
Cotton Harvested	90	85	68	67	
Beef Cattle Forage	35	41	NA	NA	
Milk Cow Forage	11	26	NA	NA	
Sheep Forage	54	65	NA	NA	

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 11, 2007													
City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Nov. 10	Mar. 1 to Nov. 10 Normal *	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	54	30	62	24	42	-7	4250	3898	0.04	6.22	-2.07	33.71	-4.16
Norfolk	56	43	64	41	49	-5	4859	4392	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Richmond	57	34	64	30	46	-5	4795	4251	0.08	4.73	-3.87	33.79	-5.04
Roanoke	55	35	66	28	45	-5	4643	NA	0.03	6.47	-1.61	27.04	-10.51
Wash/Dulles	53	32	62	25	42	-6	4350	NA	0.23	5.15	-3.15	22.81	-13.98

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86^o) + daily minimum (50^o))/2-50^o; where 86^o is used if the maximum exceeds 86^o and 50^o is used if the minimum falls below 50^o.
* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.
N.A. = not available. T = trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

EASTERN

ESSEX(Keith Balderson)

Soybean harvest and wheat planting continued during the reporting period. Producers also spent time cleaning up equipment for winter storage and meeting with seed company representatives to determine corn hybrid and soybean variety selections for 2008. Producers also spent time booking fertilizer needs as the market has caused price and availability concerns.

MIDDLESEX(David Moore)

Field work has slowed with some sprinkles, but some soybean harvest continued as well as some small grain plantings. We are getting better emergence of small grains now with the field moisture. Some broccoli is still being harvested. Cattle feeding is proceeding with pastures being very poor. Soil sampling and fall fertilizer applications continue.

WESTMORELAND(Sam Johnson)

Wheat planting continues as most producers will plant more wheat than normal due to higher projected prices. Some wheat is going in behind soybeans. Small grain that has emerged looks good overall with some skips in the field due to the heavy rains that followed early planting. The soybean harvest continues and is winding down. Recent showers are interrupting the daily harvests. Moisture of the beans has been good, but the showers will make the stems and pods difficult to thrash. Most farm activities are winding down; soil sampling, liming, small grain scouting continues, wheat planting and soybean harvests draws closer to the end. Producers are making planting decisions for 2008 and making seed and fertilizer purchases.

WESTERN

HIGHLAND(Rodney Leech)

Some light showers this week kept the dust down. Colder weather with snow showers and flurries has reminded us that winter is not far away. More farmers are starting to feed hay to livestock. Main activities this week included fence repair, cleaning up and storing hay equipment, fire wood cutting, and voting.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY(Barry Robinson)

We received some rain last week, only enough to keep topsoil layers somewhat moist. Most winter crops are in the ground, and improving a bit because of precipitation and cooler temperatures.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK(Cynthia L. Gregg)

Fertilizer and lime is still being spread on fields. Small grains are being planted if seed can be found. Cattle are still being sold at area markets. Winter meetings are being planned in the area. Hay supplies are getting lower.

SUFFOLK CITY(Rex Cotten)

The peanuts have been harvested. Soil moisture is still short and we could stand a few showers. We are hoping for an extended and warm fall.

CENTRAL

AMHERST(Bill Seay)

Many of the livestock producers have begun to full feed. Others are supplementing the green, but short growth, spurred by warm temperatures in pasture fields. Producers are looking far and wide for additional hay to maintain their cow herds.

CAROLINE(McGann Saphir)

Soil moisture conditions continue to remain good following the rain of two weeks ago. Scattered showers and lowering temperatures have kept conditions fairly moist. Crop farmers are cleaning up the last of the soybean harvest, planting wheat and cover crops. Pastures have rebounded significantly. Animals are finding fairly good grazing conditions. Hayfields are greening up, but it is far too late for another cutting. Many hayfields are being fenced with temporary fencing so they may be grazed. Hay prices continue to skyrocket as hay is in extremely short supply.